

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A coating apparatus for producing a silver salt photothermographic material, comprising:

(a) a supplier for supplying a photosensitive layer liquid coating composition comprising a silver component and a non-photosensitive protective layer liquid coating composition; and

(b) a slot coater for coating the photosensitive layer liquid coating composition and the non-photosensitive protective layer liquid coating composition supplied by the supplier, onto a web to be coated, the slot coater comprising a lip plane which comes into contact with at least the photosensitive layer liquid coating composition,

wherein a center-line surface roughness Ra of the lip plane is equal to or less than 0.5 μm .

2. (Original) A coating apparatus for producing a silver salt photothermographic material, comprising:

(a) a supplier for supplying a photosensitive layer liquid coating composition comprising a silver component and a non-photosensitive protective layer liquid coating composition; and

(b) a slide coater for coating the photosensitive layer liquid coating composition and the non-photosensitive protective layer liquid coating composition supplied by the supplier, onto a web to be coated, the slide coater comprising a slide plane which comes into contact with at least the photosensitive layer liquid coating composition,

wherein a center-line surface roughness Ra of the slide plane is equal to or less than 0.5 μm .

3-12. (Canceled)

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